

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-3 and 6-19 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0011783 to Hosokawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,344,712 to Eida et al. and U.S. Publication No. 2003/0011305 to Himeshima et al.

Claims 4, 5 and 9 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosokawa in view of Eida et al. and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0109456 to Morii et al.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended each of independent claims 1, 14 and 16 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-19 remain pending in this application for further consideration.

All Claims Comply with 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 6-19 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosokawa in view of Eida et al. and Himeshima et al., and claims 4, 5 and 9 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosokawa in view of Eida et al. and Morii et al. To the extent that the rejections might be applied against the claims as newly-amended, they are respectfully traversed as being based on a reference or a combination of references that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features recited in the claims.

With regard to each of independent claims 1 and 14, as newly-amended, Applicants respectfully submit that Hosokawa, Eida et al. and Himeshima et al., whether taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest a claimed combination including at least a feature “wherein the partition wall is provided with an organic electroluminescent material such that the organic electroluminescent material is formed on the partition wall and separate from the organic electroluminescent layer by the partition wall.”

The Office Action insists that a combination of Hosokawa, Eida et al. and Himeshima et al. renders the present invention obvious. In particular, the Office Action suggests an insulating film 25 of Hosokawa, a color modulating layer 22 of Eida et al. and a spacer 4 of Himeshima et al. allegedly as a partition wall, respectively. However, none of the applied references teach or suggest such a partition wall that is provided with an organic electroluminescent material such that the organic electroluminescent material is formed on the partition wall and separate from the organic electroluminescent layer by the partition wall. Specifically, the insulating film 25 of Hosokawa has part of organic luminous medium 24 formed thereon but the part is NOT separate from the remaining organic luminous medium 24 as shown in FIG. 3 of Hosokawa. Also, the color modulating layer 22 of Eida et al. has an organic layer 34 continuously formed thereon as shown in FIG. 19 of Eida et al. Moreover, the spacer 4 of Himeshima et al. merely divides an emitting layer 6 as shown in FIG. 2 of Himeshima et al. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Hosokawa, Eida et al. and Himeshima et al., whether taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed combination including at least the feature that “wherein the partition wall is provided with an organic electroluminescent material such that the

organic electroluminescent material is formed on the partition wall and separate from the organic electroluminescent layer by the partition wall,” as recited by each of newly-amended independent claims 1 and 14.

For similar reasons as those set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Hosokawa, Eida et al. and Himeshima et al., whether taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest a claimed combination including at least a feature of the high molecular material that is separate from the organic electroluminescent layer by the partition wall,” as recited by newly-amended independent claim 16.

Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the Office Action has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to newly-amended independent claims 1, 14, and 16, and hence dependent claims 2-13, 15, and 17-19.

In addition, Applicants respectfully assert that the Office Action does not rely upon Morii et al. to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Hosokawa, Himeshima et al. and Eida et al. Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that Morii et al. cannot remedy the deficiencies of Hosokawa, Himeshima et al. and Eida et al.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because all of the applied references, whether taken individually or combined, fail to teach or suggest the novel combination of features recited in newly-amended independent claims 1, 14, and 16, and hence dependent claims 2-13, 15, and 17-19.

Without other rejections pending, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-19 in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

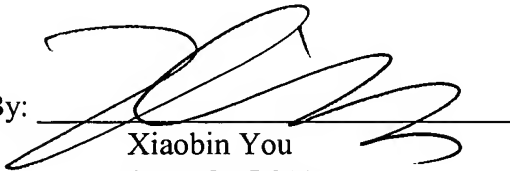
In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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